

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01440 301025Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ABF-01 /013 W

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R 300909Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8031

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FOR CU/EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BM

SUBJECT: BURMA/U.S. EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. AS OF JUNE 30 WE PROPOSE CLOSING THE BOOKS ON THE DEFUNCT FULBRIGHT FOUNDATION AND TRANSFERRING ASSETS AND SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE TO OUR ALREADY OPERATIONAL BURMA/UNITED STATES EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

2. GUB HAS IGNORED FOUNDATION'S EXISTENCE SINCE 1962 AND THERE IS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE OF ATTITUDE. GUB POLICY OF DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN MATTERS OF EXCHANGE AND TECHNICAL TRAINING AS WELL AS SELECTING ITS OWN RECIPIENTS FOR ANY OPPORTUNITY OFFERED MAKES FOUNDATION ORGANIZATION WITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMPETITIVE SELECTION MACHINERY ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE.

3. SINCE JANUARY WE HAVE USED TERMINOLOGY BURMA/U.S. RXDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN PROJECT DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS AND IN PRESS. THE TITLE IS ON OFFICE DOOR AT THE CENTER, WHERE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTENDING PROGRAMS ARE REGULARLY EXPOSED TO IT. THE TITLE CHANGE IS OUR HOPE OF REVIVING AND MAXIMIZING USG EXCHANGE INTERESTS. WITH GUB WILLING TO DO BUSINESS WE NEED FLEXIBILITY FOR DIRECT MISSION ACTION WHICH FOUNDATION REGULATIONS DO NOT PERMIT.

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 01440 301025Z

4. WE PROPOSE USING KYAT FUND JUDICIOUSLY IN ACCORD WITH

KNOWN REGULATIONS FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM SUPPORT. NO
REASON TO BELIEVE GUB WILL MAKE ANY OBJECTION AS DISBURSE-
MENTS WOULD BE IN SUPPORT OF OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED EXCHANGES.
WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT WOULD PERMIT AMBASSADOR
DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OVER USE OF FUNDS TO FACILITATE
PROGRAM AND DOLLAR SAVING. AUDIT REVIEW AND ACCOUNTABILITY
OF EXPENSES WILL NOT CHANGE. WE WILL, HOWEVER, IF POSSIBLE
AND PRACTICAL, CHANGE THE NAME OF THE ACCOUNT ALSO TO ACHIEVE
A COMPLETE BREAK WITH THE PAST AND ENABLE ENTIRELY NEW
BOOKS AND RECORDS TO BE STARTED.
OSBORN

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